

ITALIAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
Mill and South Sixth streets  
Jeannette  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6097

HABS  
PA  
65-JENN,  
66-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO:  
ITALIAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
Mill & South Sixth Streets  
Jeannette  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6097  
*PA,65-JEAN,66-*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## ITALIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

HABS No. PA-6097

- LOCATION: Mill & South Sixth streets, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This was the first of two Italian churches built in the neighborhood. The Pittsburgh Baptist Association purchased the lot from A.J. Smith in January 1915, and the tax records indicate the church was completed the following year. Records on the church and its members are limited, but the congregation began meeting in the early 1900s as a mission of the earlier First Baptist Church in Jeannette. This sponsoring church is where the congregation's first baptisms took place in 1910. The Italian congregation met in several buildings on the south side of the city before building a permanent church. By the late 1930s, the church was dissolved and the remained members joined the First Baptist Church congregation.

During World War II, the church was sold to the Salvation Army, who used it as their Jeannette Citadel. The organization used the building for their many social and religious activities until the early 1970s. In 1975, the building was sold to the Hope of Faith Sanctuary. In the late 1980s, at the time of the writing of this report, the building was for sale and not in use.

### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Built 1915-16, the central entrance plan church combines a five bay sanctuary with a squat, pyramid-roofed tower beside the main doors. The yellow brick veneer used here was popular during the later phase of building in the neighborhood. Ornament is restricted to sandstone sills and keystones, with pointed arched windows used above the entry and on the tower. The roof material is slate.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1916, 1925.*

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 291/14, 468/386, 481/461, 554/454, 555/153, 556/138, 1153/37, 2181/357.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Interview, Pastor Thomas Johnson, First Baptist Church of Jeannette, August 28, 1990.

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.